

MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

August 11, 2008 - MINUTES

In attendance: Council Members: Chairman Jacob Wagner, Kathy Berg, Tom Peluso, Jan Bjork, Sally Miller, Jerrold Johnson, Louise Brewster, Shelly Johnson, Shelly Heilweil and Commissioner Bill Murdock; Advocacy Member: Dennis Cox (AMDD), Dan Aune, and Andrea Lower (Court Services); Guests: Galen Eldridge and Marae Hart (Montana Mental Health Association) Jodi Daly (WMMHC), Scott Malloy (GCMHC), and Betsy Garrigues (KMA). Staff: Glenda Howze.

Call to Order and Introductions - 12:05 PM. Chairman Wagner opened the meeting and allowed for introductions.

Public Comment - Marae Hart and Galen Eldridge from the Montana Mental Health Association introduced themselves and noted that the Warm Line virtual drop in center is set to open on September 1. It is a non-crisis line staffed by peers. The also noted the "Out of Darkness" walk for suicide prevention in Billings on September 21. Anyone interested can donate money, walk, or assist with awareness of the event. Peers that work for the Warm Line are paid \$8.00 an hour and generally work a 4-hour shift, one shift approximately every four weeks. Ms. Brewster requested that the LAC be added to their mailing list for future distribution of information and updates.

Approval of Minutes, July 2008 - Mr. Cox offered clarification on some comments made in the July minutes - the following has been added to the July minutes for clarification purposes: Correction! Lou Thompson has been using Goal 189 money to assist MSH patients with discharge planning whose needs exceed currently funded community services, on a case by case basis. She has also made available funds for 3, 8 bed facilities (Missoula, Helena, GF) to receive persons with high needs who are discharging from MSH. Ed Amberg has also funded staff to accompany persons discharging back to community. Additionally, those persons who are using crisis homes, and demonstrate substantial needs beyond the resources of the 72hr program, may receive continued funding on a case by case basis. Mr. Peluso stated that his comments in the July minutes resulted from the Summit meeting where what the Governor had stated he would give for community services for crisis care was specifically outlined. It was noted at the summit that there will not be any funds for crisis care. Mr. Cox reiterated that there are definitely funds being used for the 189 programs. Mr. Peluso stated that the 72-presumptive funds were authorized for July 2007 but the MHC hasn't received a payment yet for those services. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, with clarification noted. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Drop-In Center Update/Advisory Board Business - Mr. Malloy stated that there are no updates at this time. The programming is in place. There are 200-300 people using the center per month, unduplicated. A calendar is being put in place for what is offered - there are various community services that are coming in to do presentations. There is a noon co-occurring AA meeting with 5-8 participants daily, and they are offering haircuts weekly as well. A survey is offered to all attendees to assist with future planning of activities, etc. A quarterly report with statistics from the Center will be prepared and presented to the LAC and AMDD. A lot has been done on advertising with flyers distributed to each community agency, an ad in the Wellness Wednesday, etc. A link to the website will be put on the new LAC webpage as well. Ms. Brewster noted that volunteers at the Center have to fill out an extensive application - this determines if the person is really interested in serving and adds a checks and balance to the program. Mr. Malloy noted

that when you become a volunteer at the Center you are a volunteer for the Mental Health Center agency. Currently they have 3-4 volunteers for the Center.

Report from Chairman Wagner re: Homeless Shelter - Chairman Wagner talked to Paul Thomas who runs HIS Soup. He is also working to get the homeless shelter at Hemlock and 5th Avenue, next to H&R Block up and running. SWMBIA and other volunteers are working on the project. There is no expected date for opening yet. They are still working on the permitting/licensing issues with the City. This will not be a long-term stay facility.

Priority Table Updates - Including reports from subcommittees - Ms. Lower reported that the Mental Health subcommittee of the CJCC continues to discuss diversion options and working with the County Attorney and Public Defender's office on this. A mental health court is not likely to happen, but there may be options for diversion to other places. Discussion took place regarding the planned crisis facility on the campus. Commissioner Murdock stated that there is confusion on what type of facility is needed, as well as disagreement on what is needed and whether the facility will be usable for the County's purposes. Mr. Malloy stated that he is working out those concerns and confusion. A group of pertinent individuals continues to meet to work out the details and he noted that they feel they have an understanding and will continue to work out questions as they arise. Mr. Malloy has a meeting set up with Sheriff Cashell to help him understand that the facility will be able to take people that would have otherwise had to be taken to Warm Springs. Mr. Peluso stated that at the first meeting on this subject there was poor communication but the subsequent meeting was better. Mr. Aune asked if the meetings that are taking place are open to others to attend. He noted that he would like to be a part of them and serve as another voice, taking some of the pressure off of the Mental Health Center. Mr. Malloy stated that he has talked to Ms. Lower about having a subcommittee for the mental health campus and specific meetings for law enforcement, etc. Mr. Peluso stated that he is getting out of sorts on the whole campus thing. The players in the community have come together (Bozeman Deaconess Hospital, County, Gilhousen Foundation, Western Montana Mental Health Center) to get this done without any support from the State and now what has been done doesn't appear to be good enough for everyone else. Mr. Malloy stated that he has met with the hospital and they are willing to support the project beyond the land in the end, but they want to see the bigger picture before they commit further. Chairman Wagner stated that the issue is really public safety and what defines "secure" in the corrections world versus "secure" in the mental health world. Ms. Brewster inquired as to how individuals will be "handed off" from the emergency room to the Crisis home. Protocols will be developed to address this. Everyone that was at the meeting was okay with the discussion and explanations, but not all of the right people were in the room either. The project is on the right track and there is not much else that can be done other than communication. Ms. Lower stated that all of the protocols and processes will be clearer as time goes on. Mr. Peluso stated that they are working right now on the protocol so that everyone will know when "x" happens, the next step is "y," and then "z." Mr. Peluso agreed to send the matrix on the commitment process to Glenda to email out. The protocol will be written around the matrix. Mr. Johnson stated that the big this is to make it easier for the Sheriff's Department as far as transportation and the numbers of clients sitting at the hospital. Mr. Malloy stated that everything is at a good place. They are having active meetings with law enforcement and they want relief from transportation; relieve Warm Springs trips.

Priority Table and Agency Updates - Mental Health Campus: Mr. Peluso reported that a request for proposals for a Preliminary Architectural Report and Preliminary Engineering Report was in two consecutive Sunday editions of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle to get information for the bid package. Currently we have 2-3 responses. **Public Education:** Ms. Howze distributed a copy of the homepage for the MHLAC website. It is up and running. Modifications and updates are welcome. **Co-Occurring:** Cross training is a goal for

2008. Legislative: Ms. Miller distributed a survey and asked everyone to fill it out and return it soon. AMDD is seeking to determine their top three priorities and are looking for the community to assist with this. AMDD: Mr. Cox reported that there was a suicide prevention training and there are now people certified in Bozeman to assist with this.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM